

## Military family members also sacrifice, contribute

By Kathy Latzke  
Family support center

The Department of Defense recognizes the sacrifices and unique contributions of military families during Military Family Week, Nov. 19-26.

It is at this time that we are reminded of the courage and perseverance displayed by military families, occasionally in the form of sacrifice, but most frequently in successful efforts to resolve an ever-changing environment.

It wasn't that long ago that many perceived the military's attitude toward the family as being, "If the Air Force wanted you to have a family, it would have issued you one."

Fortunately, this began to change in the early '70s. Two explanations for the change are that the military went from being comprised of mostly single males to a mix of professional military men and women; and the increasing role families played in the changing Air Force.

Senior leaders supported the change, stating it was needed because it became increasingly apparent that a happy Air Force family made for a more productive and satisfied Air Force member.

Over the last 20 years, we have been bombarded with reading material which emphasizes the importance of a positive, supportive family. This is especially true for military families.

In addition to the routine life stressors faced by most civilian families, the military family is forced to deal with additional stressors unique to military life. Commonly identified stressors include: frequent moves, complex work schedules, unavailability of extended family members, giving and/or taking orders, living abroad, residing in base housing, and being separated from other family members for long periods of time.

The approximately 680 Rhein-Main Air Base families are no exception. During the past year, many active-duty members participated in deployments and about 112 new families arrived to the base.

Each weekday, approximately 450 children of military families enter the doors of Halvorsen-Tunner School and many spouses depart to various base locations where they make a vital contribution by either volunteering or being employed.

Each individual has a place in his or her own family; each family has a place in the community; and every family is important to the overall mission.

While there are many services in place to assist our military families, it is perhaps a caring family which can best insulate us from life's many demands, thus, strengthening the nation's armed forces and allowing us to continue living in freedom.

For this, the Rhein-Main Family Support Center and services flight salute our families and extend a heartfelt thank you.

**Main Line 330-7777 or  
hotline@rheinmain.af.mil**

*The Main Line is your direct link to me about life on Rhein-Main. It's your opportunity to recognize outstanding performers, ask questions, make comments or voice complaints. You can also use the program to report incidents of fraud, waste or abuse.*

*I want to emphasize that the Main Line is not intended to replace your chain of command. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. Please leave your name, duty section and telephone number when you call so you can be contacted with the appropriate response. Issues of concern to the Rhein-Main community will be printed in the Gateway.*

*The Main Line can be an excellent tool to improve the way we live and work at Rhein-Main. I welcome your inputs.*

**Col. Christine D. Prewitt,  
Commander**

## the Gateway

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## Military Family Week celebration

The family support center is holding a National Military Family Week celebration Nov. 17. The movie *102 Dalmatians* plays at the Gateway Gardens Theater at 11 a.m.

Following the movie, there is a cook-out in the youth activities center gym. Family admission for these events is free, but people must pick up tickets at the family support center, in Bldg. 347.

Halvorsen-Tunner School students

from 4th through 8th grade competed in an essay contest, while students from kindergarten through 3rd grade competed in an art contest. The winners of the contests will be announced during the celebration. Each student chosen receives a \$50 savings bond, donated by Andrews Federal Credit Union.

Families chosen for the Outstanding American Military Family Contest, will also be honored at the celebration.

*The deadline for the Nov. 30  
edition of the Gateway is  
4 p.m., Nov. 21*